UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF LARGE-SCALE UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA

Project title and number:	Strengthening of Vocational Training Programmes (PAN/78/002)
Executing Agency:	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministerio de Trabajo y Bienestar Social through the Servicio Nacional de Formación Profesional
Date of approval:	August 1978
Starting date for project operations:	September 1978
Duration:	Two years and six months
Estimated value of the Government inputs expressed in US dollars:	$547 500 (in kind)
Estimated UNDP contribution:	$376 500
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In order to increase the productivity of those already employed, as well as of those entering the labour market, the Panamanian Government has selected as a specific target of its social and economic development strategy, the improvement of workers' qualifications.

2. According to the National Development Plan 1975-1980, it will be necessary to create 22,800 additional jobs per year in order to decrease the rate of unemployment from 6.3 per cent to 5.5 per cent by the end of the period. Strengthening of vocational training programmes will play an important role in the achievement of the above-mentioned targets.

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3. The Vocational Training System in Panama has to be reformulated in order to make it operational. The tripartite nature of vocational training programmes has to be promoted by means of close co-ordination among the corresponding government agency, the entrepreneurs and the workers.

4. The Servicio Nacional de Formación Profesional (formerly Dirección General de Empleo y Formación Profesional) is the government agency responsible for the implementation of the new vocational training system, and it is necessary to strengthen its organization both from the technical and administrative standpoints.

5. The Government of Panama has requested assistance -which has been approved under the present project- to cover the needs identified above.

II. The project

6. The development objective of the project is to contribute to increasing the participation of the population in the development process of the country by increasing the technical capacity of new workers and already employed workers.

7. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) improve the design of the vocational training system as a whole; (b) improve the research, planning, operation and evaluation functions of the vocational training system; and (c) increase the efficiency of vocational training activities.

8. UNDP will provide for the services of seven experts in vocational training for 64 man-months.

9. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved the Government will provide qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, supplies and equipment directly to the project.

10. The expenditure compoments of the UNDP contribution are as follows:

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Personnel	355 500
Equipment	8 500
Miscellaneous	12 500
	376 500

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